



TOWN OF UPTON, MASSACHUSETTS

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Memo To: Board of Selectmen
From: Blythe C. Robinson, Town Manager
Date: October 14, 2016
Re: Town Manager's Weekly Report

Warrants:

- Payroll: \$ 84,006.74
- Expense Warrant: \$ 100,842.52

For Your Information/Follow Up:

- Please join me in congratulating Tracey Tardy for achieving her designation as a certified assessor! Tracey has devoted a lot of time and study to taking all of the MAAO classes and tests, and passed the final one with flying colors (as we knew she would)! It is a wonderful benefit to the Town to have the staff person on the board with this depth of knowledge, and we're proud of her.
- Please mark your calendars for the Upton Center Health Fair that will be here at Town Hall on Wednesday, October 19th in the Main Hall. Janice and her team are arranging a diverse group of companies and services in the field of health and social services and there will be something for everyone!
- We are gearing up for the presidential election on November 8th, including early voting. Kelly has posted the information on our website that indicates residents can come to Town Hall beginning October 24th to vote, thereby eliminating the need for them to vote an absentee ballot. The hours will also be posted on our website. Residents are also reminded that they can register to vote until October 19th, and they can do so either by coming to Town Hall or on line at www.registertovotema.com.
- Good news from the Assessor's Office regarding our annual certification of our property values. That was received by the Town this week, as well as confirmation of our new growth in the grand list. The amount is \$419,650; almost \$100,000 more than budgeted. Free cash has been submitted to the DOR as well and we expect word on that shortly. With that information we'll be able to start on the recap sheet and be prepared to discuss what that means to the tax rate for this year. My appreciation to the Board of Assessors and to Tracey for their hard work in getting this done.
- The electronic permitting team has scheduled meetings with four firms next week to give more in depth presentations as part of the decision making process.
- I had lunch with the Steve Sette, the Hopedale Town Administrator this week to talk about opportunities for regionalized services. We discussed two possibilities that we're going to explore a little further to see if they might work.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
James A. Brochu, Chairman
Robert J. Fleming
Gary Daugherty

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- We are investigating both of the Fowler Street Bridges for the State's small bridge repair grant program. As it turns out we can submit for more than one bridge so we may include both of these as well as one on Mendon Street. That application will be submitted by the end of this month.
- The DPW Director has also submitted an application to the DEP for a water infrastructure assessment and planning grant in the amount of \$40,000. The grant will be used to inventory our assets for the distribution system, and catalog all of the as built maps into the GIS system we are developing.
- On Tuesday, Brian Kemp in his role as Emergency Management Director presented the Blackstone Valley Regional Emergency Plan to the statewide emergency response commission (SERC). The plan is collaboration between the five Blackstone Valley towns. The Commission approved the plan and awarded full accreditation which is in effect for five years and enables us to apply for various emergency preparedness grants.
- The Grove Street parking lot project is well underway. The existing pavement was removed, as well as the balance of the lot cleared of trees and brush. The next steps are installation of the storm drainage infrastructure, filling the lot and readying it all for paving, hopefully next week. This project should wrap up in about two weeks, and the Oak Knoll Lane cul de sac repaving will take place concurrently.